

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 (Paper No. 19). Claims 1, 2, 4 to 12, 14 to 18, 32 to 37, 39 to 47, 49 to 53, 67 to 71, 74 and 119 to 121 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 are independent. Claims 119 to 121 have been newly added.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As to a formal matter, the Office Action indicated that none of the certified copies of the priority documents were received. Enclosed is a stamped postcard confirming receipt of the five priority documents by the Patent Office on March 28, 2000. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents filed on March 28, 2000.

Claims 1 to 10, 12 to 18, 32 to 45, 47 to 53, 67 to 71 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,959,627 (Duwaer). Claims 11 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Duwaer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,708,806 (DeRose). The subject matter of Claims 3, 13, 38 and 48 has been incorporated into different ones of the pending claims, and as such, Claims 3, 13, 38 and 48 have been cancelled. These actions have been made without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 recites a method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. The method includes the step of reading the descriptions of the resources. The descriptions, which are separate from the resources,

have descriptor components which have attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, and at least one axis of access is a table-of-contents classification.

In addition, each descriptor component, having an attribute representative of a table of contents, has a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources.

The method also includes the step of displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification. Each item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step. The method further includes the steps of receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items, receiving an indication of a further axis of access, and displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components. The method also includes the step of reading, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component having an attribute representative of a table-of-contents classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected descriptor component.

Independent Claims 36 and 71 are apparatus and computer readable medium claims, respectively, and correspond generally to the method of independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 36 and 71, and in particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of (1) displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification,

wherein each item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step, (2) receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items, (3) receiving an indication of a further axis of access, and (4) displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more descriptor components.

Duwaer relates to a method and device for user-presentation of a compilation system. Duwaer is seen to teach a system which visually presents multiple audio and/or visual items where each item is associated with various attributes that each express a category, a value or a label. Through selection among the items a compiled subset of the items is produced (see Abstract).

For example, Fig. 4 of Duwaer depicts a compilation creation tab with fifteen attributes of audio items stored on tape drive 44 (column 3, lines 40-67). A user of the system is able to select one of the attributes. A selection of an attribute will suppress the display of all audio items that do not concord with the lines so clicked. For example, as seen in Fig. 5, clicking on “The Beatles” in the performer field will suppress all items that were not performed by this group (column 4, lines 10-29).

Duwaer does not describe how it decides on which of its fifteen attributes are displayed, and the clear implication is that Duwaer displays all of the attributes available to it. As a consequence, Duwaer does not teach or suggest the present invention’s display of items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access

that is a table-of-contents classification. In addition, Duwaer is not seen to disclose or suggest a table-of-contents classification. The Office Action, in the rejection of Claims 32, 67 and 74, contends that Duwaer teaches that the input to fields 136 (see Fig. 3) can be derived from a medium itself, such as from a table of contents (column 3, lines 6-11). However, this teaching is merely seen to show that a table of contents can be used as a source for attributes, and is not seen to teach a first axis of access that is a table-contents classification as recited by Claims 1, 36 and 71.

In addition, the present invention receives a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items, receives an indication of a further axis of access, and displays, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access. Duwaer is not seen to teach that the selection of an attribute, muchless a table-of-contents classification, will result in the display of further items for selection. Instead, Duwaer is seen to teach that the selection of an attribute suppresses display of all items not associated with the attribute. Thus, Duwaer is not seen to display further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a further axis of access, but is rather seen to display a subset of the original items displayed along with a subset of the original attributes.

As such, Duwaer is not seen to teach the above-mentioned features of Claims 1, 36 and 71.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, independent Claim 32 recites a method of annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource. The method includes the step of reading the description of the

resource but not reading the resource. The description is separate from the resource and has descriptor components each of which comprises a name of a feature of the resource and an associated representative value for the feature. The description also has one or more of the descriptor components, including a table of contents attribute, and one or more of the descriptor components including an index attribute. The descriptor components, including a table of contents attribute, each have a link to a corresponding portion of the resource.

The method also includes the steps of displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items, wherein each table of contents item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute, receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation, and displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item.

The method further includes the steps of receiving a selection of one displayed index item, associating the selected displayed index item with the selected table of contents item, receiving a choice of a representative value for the selected index item, and associating the chosen representative value with the feature which corresponds to the selected index item, wherein the chosen representative value and its corresponding feature provide an annotation of the resource.

Independent Claims 67 and 74 are apparatus and computer readable medium claims, respectively, and correspond generally to the method of independent Claim 32.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 32, 67 and 74, and in particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of (1) displaying one or more tables of contents containing table of contents items, wherein each table of contents item is associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has a table of contents attribute, (2) receiving a selection of one displayed table of contents item for the annotation, and (3) displaying an index containing index items, each displayed index item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component that has an index attribute and is associated with the selected table of contents item.

As discussed above, Duwaer is seen to teach displaying a plurality of audio items and attributes, selecting one attribute, and then suppressing display of a subset of the originally displayed audio items and attributes that do not correspond to the selected attribute.

As discussed above, Duwaer is not seen to teach the display one or more table of contents. In addition, Duwaer is not seen to disclose or suggest displaying an index containing index items, wherein the index item is associated with the selected table of contents item, but rather, is merely seen to teach suppressing display of audio items that do not correspond to the selected attribute.

As such, Duwaer is not seen to teach the above-mentioned features of Claims 32, 67 and 74.

The remaining art applied against the claims, namely DeRose, is not seen to supply what is missing from Duwaer. Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments

and remarks, independent Claims 1, 32, 36, 67, 71 and 74 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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